



**SCENES FROM PLAYS
PRESENTED BY PARISHIONERS AT THE
PARISH HALL**

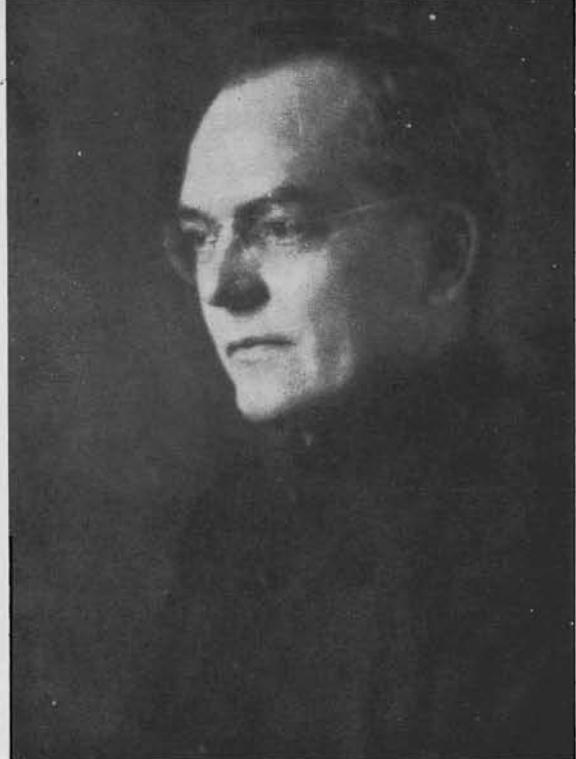


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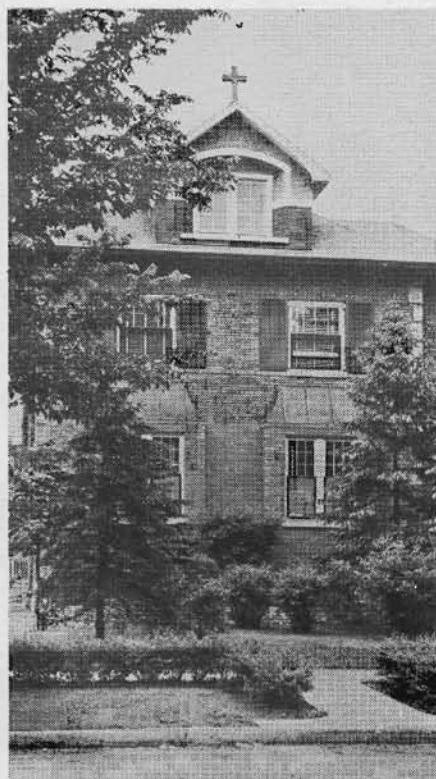
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Then came the depression of 1929, and everything was at a standstill, until the war years. In June of 1936, after 24 years of arduous and devoted service to his people, Father Felix Feldheim, the founding pastor of Ascension of Our Lord Parish, resigned his pastorate. To succeed him, His Eminence George Cardinal Mundelein appointed the Rev. Peter P. Witmanski as pastor. The energetic new pastor immediately began an extensive program of renovation and of remodeling. The church was completely renovated - new lighting fixtures, floor covering, and artistic windows were installed. A new heating system was put into the church-school building. The rectory was remodeled and an addition was made to the front of it, to supply office space for transacting parish business. A playground was constructed for the school children, and their school was decorated. Besides completing this program of renovation, Father Witmanski, with the generous support of his parishioners, managed to completely liquidate the parish debt. With the parish out of debt and in good physical condition, he began to plan for the building of a new church on the corner of Ashland and Wilder. All subsequent income was set aside with this purpose in mind. Father Witmanski, however, did not see his plan materialize, for in the Spring of 1947 he was promoted to the pastorate of St. Mary Magdalen parish in South Chicago. In his place Samuel Cardinal Stritch appointed the Rev. Thomas Sampolinski, previously pastor of St. Wenceslaus (De Koven St.) in Chicago.

The new pastor's plans coincided with those of his predecessor, for he too shared the hope and dream of his parishioners, that some day Ascension of Our Lord parish would have a new church. All during his pastorate he labored and saved with this purpose in mind. By 1953, there was over \$82,000.00, in the parish treasury. Father Sampolinski died in 1953 and the Rev. Francis Krakowski, a former Quigley professor, and till then pastor of Old St. Stephen's, in Chicago, was appointed his successor.



REV. PETER P. WITMANSKI
Second Pastor - 1936-1947



ADDITION TO FRONT OF RECTORY



SILVER JUBILEE COMMITTEE

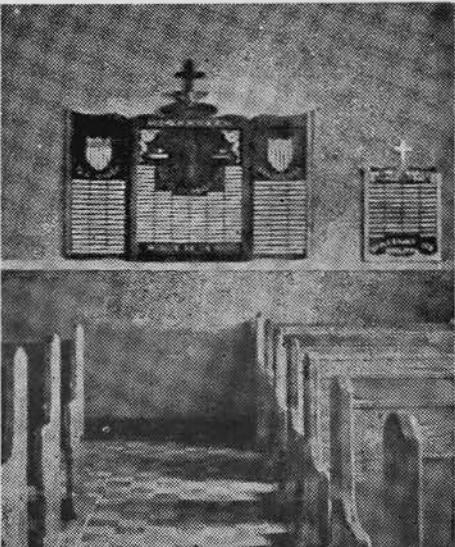
SILVER JUBILEE BANQUET



SENDING PACKAGES TO
SERVICEMEN

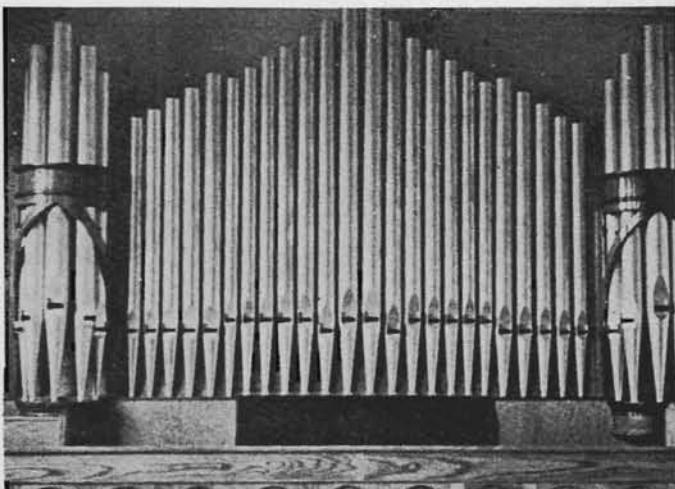
HONOR ROLL

MEMORIAL TO SERVICEMEN





INTERIOR OF CHURCH 1944



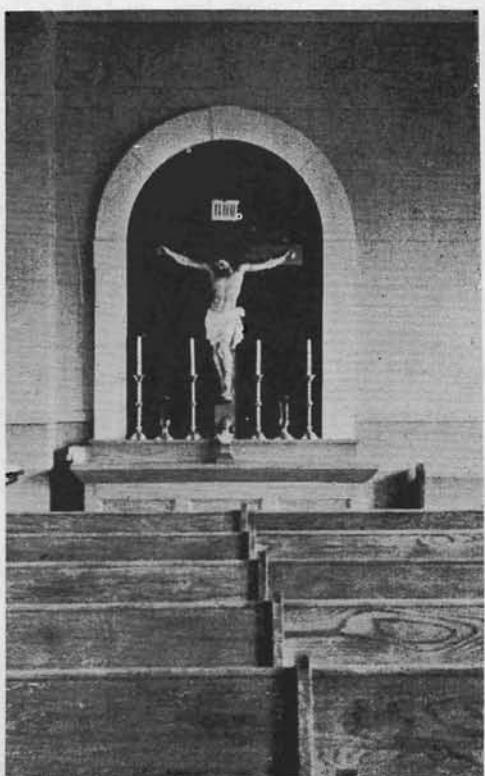
SECOND ORGAN



SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF CZESTOCHOWA



MAIN ALTAR





VESTMENT CASE

BLESSING OF THE STATUE OF OUR LADY
(Parish Garden)



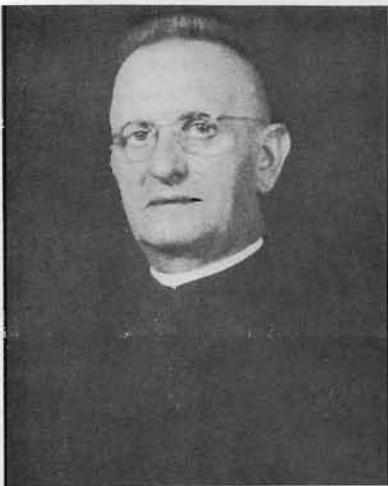
CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND



ALTAR BOYS



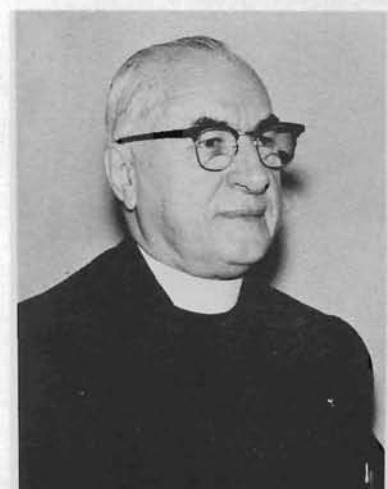
CHILDREN'S CRUSADE OF PRAYER
World War II



REV. THOMAS M. SAMPOLINSKI
Third Pastor - 1947-1953



REV. FRANCIS R. KRAKOWSKI
Fourth Pastor - 1953-1956



REV. VINCENT NOWAKOWSKI
Present Pastor - 1956

The post war years were years of prosperity, and of great change. A good number of the younger parishioners, having married during the war years or immediately after, eventually were able to purchase homes of their own, and moved into the swiftly developing northern and western suburbs. Father Krakowski was faced with the dilemma of whether to go on with the plans to build a new church, or whether to renovate the existing church properties. The former would have entailed many more years of gathering funds, since building costs were sky rocketing, and the laying of a huge burden upon the shoulders of the slowly decreasing parish membership. It also would have meant, that very little could have been done to keep up the existing properties, or to prevent them from deteriorating. Together with his parishioners, he decided that, in view of existing conditions, the prudent course of action was to renovate completely the existing properties. This he did. The interior of the church was completely modernized - a panelled sanctuary, new altars, statues, stations of the cross, acoustic ceiling, new flooring. The class rooms and rectory took on a new modern look, and a new garage was built for the priests. Father Krakowski was in the process of remodeling the sisters quarters, when he was promoted to St. Roman's parish in Chicago.

The Rev. Vincent Nowakowski, the present pastor, was appointed as his successor in February of 1956. He had previously been pastor of St. Wenceslaus Church (De Koven St.) in Chicago. During Father Nowakowski's administration, the remodeling of the sisters' quarters was completed, the parish hall was completely renovated, the electrical system in the church-school building was completely overhauled, and a fire detection system was installed in the whole building. In preparation for the Golden Jubilee, the church building had been tuckpointed, cleaned, and painted. The interior of the church and the hall have been newly decorated. The childrens' playground has been extended and newly black topped. This Spring, Father Nowakowski has completed the remodeling of the parish rectory.

Fifty years have wrought quite a change at the Ascension of Our Lord parish. Most of the original Polish immigrants have died and their place has been taken by their children and grandchildren. The Polish language which once was so necessary, both in church and in the school, now occupies only a secondary place in the lives of the people. Most of the first generation Polish Americans still can speak it rather fluently, but their children use the English language almost exclusively. For years now the Polish language has not been taught at Ascension school. All sermons, at the Masses on Sunday, except for the one at the 7:30 AM Mass, are preached in English. There is little at the Ascension of Our Lord parish, that differentiates it from other Catholic parishes in Evanston.

The present membership of the parish is about 350 families. The parish school, still staffed by the Felician Sisters, has an enrollment of 120 pupils in its eight grades. Many of its former pupils have and are distinguishing themselves in almost every field of human endeavor, and can be found occupying responsible positions throughout the United States, whether it be in the professions, in business, or in industry.

Ascension of Our Lord Parish looks back with pride and joy upon its accomplishments of the past fifty years, and looks forward with courage and anticipation towards the next fifty.

S.S.G.



KINDERGARDEN 1951



FATHER SAMPOLINSKI
VESTED AS HONORARY
CANON OF A DIOCESE
IN POLAND.



ASCENSION
OF
OUR LORD
PARISH
FLOAT
AT
CENTENNIAL
CELEBRATION
OF
NORTHWESTERN
UNIVERSITY





CHILDREN OF MARY SODALITY
ALTAR BOYS



CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND



REV. THEODORE B. PALUCH'S
SILVER JUBILEE OF ORDINATION



REV. THEODORE B. PALUCH
OFFICIATING AT A WEDDING



SIDE ALTAR DECORATED FOR
HOLY THURSDAY

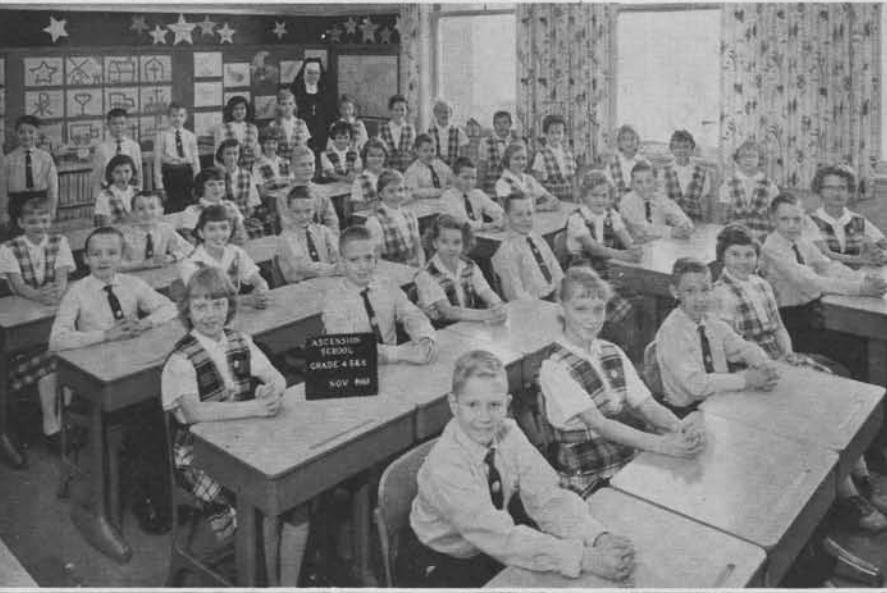
GRADUATION DAY 1961





FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD GRADES

GOLDEN JUBILEE CLASSES and FACULTY



THIRD, FOURTH AND FIFTH GRADES



Standing - Sister M. Capistrana, Sister M. Avita
Seated - Sister M. Lorita, Sister M. Humilitas (Principal)



SEVENTH, AND EIGHTH GRADES

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GOLDEN JUBILEE COMMITTEE

* * * *

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REV. STEPHEN S. GADOMSKI

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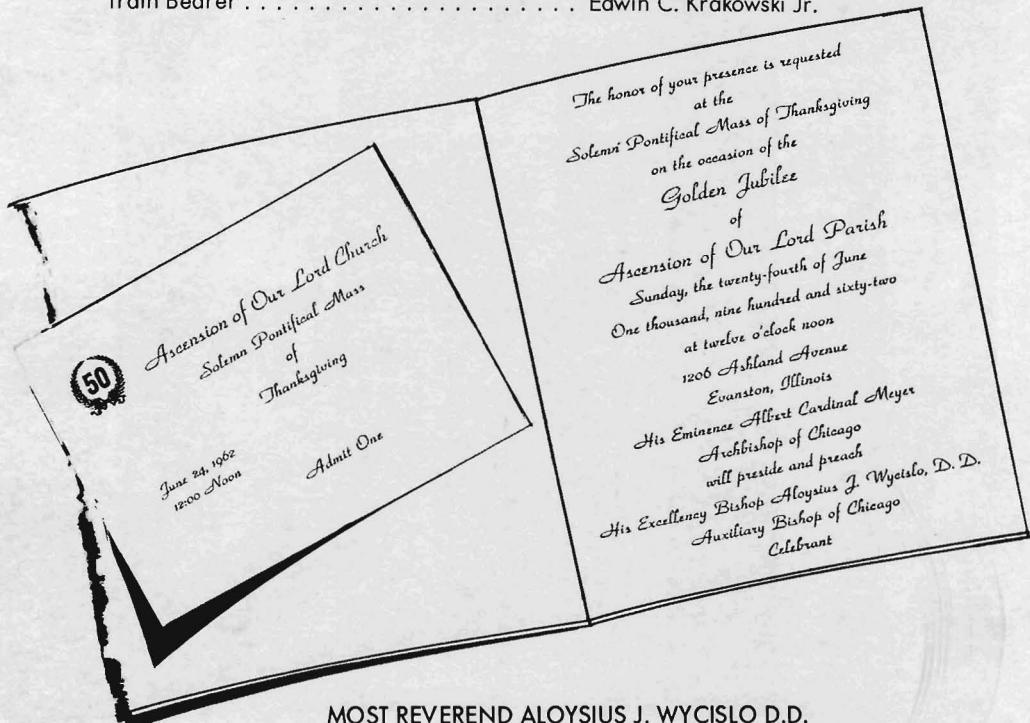
SOLEMN PONTIFICAL MASS of THANKSGIVING

ALBERT CARDINAL MEYER
Archbishop of Chicago

. . . Presided and Preached the Golden Jubilee Sermon

Assistants to the Cardinal

Master of Ceremonies	Very Rev. Msgr. Clifford Bergin
Assistant Priest	Rt. Rev. Msgr. Patrick J. Malloy
Chaplains	Very Rev. John Grabowski C. R. Rev. Peter P. Witmanski
Book Bearer	Michael Osajda
Candle Bearer	Richard Wawrzyniak
Train Bearer	Edwin C. Krakowski Jr.



MOST REVEREND ALOYSIUS J. WYCISLO D.D.
Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago

. Celebrant

Assistants to the Bishop

Master of Ceremonies	Rev. Norbert Zawistanicz
Assistant Priest	Rev. George Gorski
Deacon	Rev. Theodore Paluch
Sub-deacon	Rev. Fidelis Grabowski M. I. C.
Second Master of Ceremonies	Rev. Francis Lefkowicz
Thurifer	Rev. Edward Baranowski
Acolytes	Rev. Martin Borowczyk Rev. Edward F. Pajak
Book Bearer	Henry Matecki
Gremial Bearer	Stephen Bieda
Miter Bearers	Francis Kujawinski, Alan Roman

ASSISTING IN THE SANCTUARY

Rev. Felix Feldheim Founding Pastor
Rev. Vincent Nowakowski. Present Pastor

Others Present

Rt. Rev. Msgr. Peter A. Engeln	Rt. Rev. Msgr. John M. McCarthy
Rt. Rev. Msgr. John B. Ferring	Very Rev. Msgr. Bernard Sokolowski
Rt. Rev. Msgr. Frederick E. Hillenbrand	
Rev. Edward Borkowski S.V.D.	Rev. Stanislaus J. Kwiek
Rev. Stephen S. Gadomski	Rev. Walter Kozlowski
Rev. John V. Hoffman	Rev. Louis Nowak
Rev. Thaddeus J. Jakubowski	Rev. John Koziol
Rev. Edward Janas C.R.	Rev. Walter Okulczyk C.R.



PROCESSION TO CHURCH





AT THE PONTIFICAL MASS





PROCESSION FROM CHURCH



GOLDEN JUBILEE DINNER

In Honor Of

His Eminence,

ALBERT CARDINAL MEYER

THEIR EXCELLENCIES,

MOST REVEREND ALOYSIUS J. WYCISLO D. D.

MOST REVEREND CLETUS F. O'DONNELL D. D.



Prepared by:
MRS. ROMAN WOJTCZAK
and
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MR. RALPH JOZWIK JR.